Excerpts from the Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Continental Congress in 1781, during the American Revolution.

Article 1. The style of the confederacy shall be “the United States of America.”

Article 2. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled.

Article 3. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to or attacks made upon them or any of them on account of religion, sovereignty, trade or any other pretense whatever...

... No two or more states shall enter into any treaty, confederation, or alliance whatever between them without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled...

Article 5. For the more convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each state to recall its delegates... at any time... and to send others in their stead...

... In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote...

Article 9. The United States in Congress assembled shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article; of sending and receiving ambassadors; entering into treaties and alliances...; of establishing rules for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or water shall be legal...; of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace; appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and establishing courts for... determining finally appeals in all cases of captures...

The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more states concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other cause whatever...

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective states; fixing the standard of weights and measures throughout the United States; regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members of any of the states...; establishing and regulating post-offices from one state to another, throughout all the United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office; appointing all the officers of the naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the United States; making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces and directing their operations...
The United States in congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy unless nine states assent to the same; nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjoining from day to day, be determined unless by the votes of a majority of the United States in Congress assembled.

Article 13... the Articles of the Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state... nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States and be afterward confirmed by the legislatures of every state...